

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 and 7 recite that “second oligomer” as both part of the mixture that forms the reticulated network, in which there are pores, and as being within the pores themselves. The present invention relates to solvent-free polymer electrolytes for lithium secondary batteries. This electrolyte comprises a film and an electrolyte solution contained therein. Prior to immersion in a fluid including said electrolyte, this film has many pores that form a network of channels. The examiner argues that, by definition, a “porous” film should maintain free pores even after it is impregnated with electrolyte fluid. Applicant asserts that this view resulted from a misunderstanding of the operating principles of lithium secondary batteries. In order for a lithium secondary battery to operate, the electrolyte MUST occupy the channels of such porous film and fill up almost every pore, if not all the pores, to form an electric circuit. That is, the “porous” film of the inventive solvent-free polymer electrolyte is no longer “porous” once it is impregnated with an electrolyte solution, e.g. the inventive electrolyte solution comprising the second oligomer and lithium salts. Therefore, Applicant has amended the language of claims 1 and 7 to remove any ambiguity. Claims 6 and 12 recite “lithium aluminate (gamma-LiAlO₂)”. The Examiner has asserts that it is unclear whether the claims are intended to encompass all forms of lithium aluminate, or just the gamma form is unclear. Applicant has amended claims 6 and 12 to clarify the intended gamma form of lithium aluminate.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph as set forth in the Office Action.

Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that all of the rejections have been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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